

-continued

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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: luciferase gene

<400> SEQUENCE: 99

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<210> SEQ ID NO 100
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: molecule is combined DNA/RNA
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<210> SEQ ID NO 101
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The invention claimed is:

1. A method for preparing a double stranded RNA molecule which mediates the cleavage of an mRNA in a mammalian cell, comprising
 - (a) synthesizing two RNA strands each having a length from 19–25 nucleotides, and
 - (b) combining the synthesized RNA strands under conditions suitable to form a double stranded RNA molecule, wherein said double stranded RNA molecule has
 - a double stranded region of 14–24 nucleotides in length and one or two 3' overhang regions of 1–5 nucleotides in length.
 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said RNA strands have a length of 21–24 nucleotides in length.
 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said overhang regions are 2–4 nucleotides in length.
 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the RNA strands are chemically synthesized.